

# **ITRA Frequently Asked Questions:**

## ***Who is eligible to participate in the Indiana Teacher Reading Academy?***

All Indiana Educators who are interested. The Academies are for teachers, administrators, and all educators who teach reading to children in grades K-3.

## ***How are the Indiana Teacher Reading Academies organized?***

The Regional Indiana Education Service Centers will present the Academies. The Academy is a two-day training. Participants choose which grade level Academy to complete.

While a portion of the Academy includes content that is common to all grades, the majority of Academy will be spent in grade-level specific training.

## ***What are the dates for the June 2008 Indiana Teacher Reading Academies?***

- June 9-10      Wilson Center grades K-1
- June 9-10      Central ECS
- June 11-12     Wilson Center grades 2-3
- June 17-18     Southern ECS
- June 17-18     Wabash Valley ESC
- June 23-24     Northwest ESC
- June 24-25     Region 8 ESC
- June 25-26     West Central ESC
- June 26-27     East Central ESC

## ***Is there a fee to participate in the Indiana Teacher Reading Academy?***

Yes. Contact a Regional Education Service center for fee information.

## ***What is scientifically based reading research (SBRR)?***

Scientifically based reading research is research that applies rigorous, systematic, and objective procedures to acquire valid knowledge related to reading development, instruction, and the prevention of reading difficulties

## ***What are the five essential components of scientifically based reading instruction?***

Scientifically based reading research has identified five essential components of effective reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. To ensure that children learn to read well, explicit and systematic instruction must be provided in these five areas.

## ***What is the relationship of state standards to the effective implementation of SBRR instructional practices and programs?***

In every classroom, state academic standards and accountability should provide the foundation for effective reading instruction, regardless of which specific reading program is in use. Academic standards provide grade-specific instructional objectives and student expectations for the essential reading components. Assessments that measure students' achievement of these grade-specific goals or benchmarks provide a system for monitoring students' reading progress throughout the school year.

***What is high-quality, effective reading instruction?***

High-quality, effective reading instruction consists of on-going assessments with proven validity and reliability to inform instruction, instructional materials based on the five essential components of reading and grounded in scientifically based reading research (SBRR), and well-designed professional development. A coherent design includes explicit instructional strategies, coordinated instructional sequences, ample practice opportunities, and aligned student materials. If research findings are translated into daily classroom practice, educators can make a positive difference in students' reading outcomes.

***What should a research-based program look like?***

High-quality K-3 reading program based on scientifically based research must include instructional content incorporating the five essential components of reading instruction, integrated into a coherent instructional design. This coherent design includes the explicit and systematic teaching of beginning reading knowledge and skills within an overall program of purposeful, engaging reading and writing. The design includes allocation of time for the core reading program and additional time scheduled for intervention.

**Explicit and Systematic Reading Instruction**

- Is planned, purposeful, and visible.
- Follows a coordinated instructional sequence.
- Adapts the pacing, content, and emphasis of instruction to meet the needs of individuals and groups.
- Is data-driven (based on ongoing progress monitoring of the critical skills needed by students at each stage of reading development).